investment decisions based on their understanding of the market. The loss or gain that accrues to the investors on account of Market volatility depend on the composition and size of their portfolio and the cost of acquisition of securities.

(b) and (c) Companies Act, 1956 has been amended from time to time for better corporate governance of companies. Some of the amendments *inter alia* includes transparency in annual accounts, setting up of an Audit Committee, Director Responsibility Statement, filing of statutory returns through e-governance mode, introduction of Director Identification Number (DIN) under which identity of authorised directors and professionals are established in a secure manner. Further, Companies Bill, 2009 which has already been introduced in the Parliament and has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, is based on the principle that law should encourage good corporate governance and includes stringent provisions.

Further Clause 49 of the listing agreement as prescribed by SEBI *inter alia* contains provisions on constitution of independent Audit Committee, role of the Audit Committee and the information to be reviewed by them, disclosures by the Senior Management about material, financial and commercial transactions in which they are interested, CEO/CFO certification on the evaluation of the internal control mechanism. These provisions are made to strengthen the process of financial reporting and minimise the possibilities of malpractices in the management or financial reporting of the companies.

Ministry also encourages Professional Institutions like Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI) to organise investors education and awareness programmes to sensitise investors for taking informed decisions while investing in Capital Market. Investor Helpline namely *www.investorhelpline.in* and other websites namely *www.watchoutinvestors.com* and *www.iepf.gov.in* have been launched to create investor awareness and for serving as a knowledge sharing platform in the area of financial literacy as a measure of investor awareness and education.

Supply of coal to thermal power stations in Madhya Pradesh

†*252. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received to increase the supply of coal to the thermal power stations in Madhya Pradesh and to provide them coal linkage with the mines of the State itself; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon, so far and by when a decision would be taken and approval accorded thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Presently, supply of coal to power stations, including those located in Madhya Pradesh, is being governed by Fuel Supply Agreements, which, inter, alia, indicates the Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) as allocated by Central Electricity Authority power station-wise for 2009-10. During 2009-10 (upto November, 2009) (provl.) the power plants located in Madhya Pradesh, including Vindhyachal Thermal Power Plant of NTPC, have been supplied 20.374 million tonnes, which is about 99% of proportionate Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) of 20.499 million tonnes. An inter-Ministerial Sub Group in the Ministry monitors the supply of coal and stock position in respect of 78 Thermal Power Plants including those located in Madhya Pradesh.

Further, while the coal production in limited to only eight states, consumers are located all over the country and therefore supply of coal from producing states to non-producing states becomes inevitalble. At present, the power stations located in Madhya Pradesh are getting coal supplies from mines located in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and nearby areas of Maharashtra.

Assessment of implementation of Dowry Prevention Act

*253. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment as to what extent the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been implemented in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the dowry-related cases registered, conviction rate and the women died in such cases during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the State Governments have not appointed separate prohibition officers as required under this Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken to ensure proper implementation of the law in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 is the responsibility of the respective State Government and UT Administration in the country. The National Commission for Women had organised a convention of Chairpersons of State Commissions for Women, members of civil society organisations and civil servants including Police Officers to discuss the issues relating to this social evil and implementation of the Act. The consensus at this convention was that the present law has not been effective enough to curb this social evil.

(c) The State/UT wise list of cases registered under Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code for the period 2005-2007 as per the National Crime Records Bureau is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. The Government is considering making amendments to the existing Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 with a view to make it more effective.